

■ THE RIPPLESIDE DEVELOPMENT

This is how it's going to look

Nick Price

THIS is what the Rippleside development and walkway will look like when completed.

As the first buildings are being demolished on the site, Trendcorp developer Jim Ramsey spoke to the *GeelongNEWS* about the \$70 million project that has been in the wings for six years.

"It's a complicated project because you're dealing with marine, not just land," Mr Ramsey said.

"Marine isn't as simple, it has to be co-ordinated, but we're getting there."

Demolition work started Monday-week ago after five engineering tenants vacated the land facing the bay the previous Friday.

"Because we have contractors for building, civil, sea wall and marine, we're trying to work out the mechanics of what can be done on the site."

"The buildings are coming down, the site is being cleaned up, but then you have to decide the sequence of events. It would be chaos to (address every component) at the same time."

The developer said he was trying to create a "pedestrian-friendly site" with one main road and three courts adjoining.

Rippleside Park will be connected with St Helen's Park with a three metre-



Sneak peak: An artists impression, above, of what the \$70 million development will look like when finished. Developer Jim Ramsey, right, said he was trying to create a "pedestrian-friendly site".

wide public walkway along the foreshore.

"We're trying to refurbish two drains, one on either side, and will engineer those in consultation with Council to try and eradicate the drains' problems (of seeping effluent into the beach).

"Because there's a

northern tide, we're trying to design it so there's a smooth flow of water rather than be broken up (by a jagged foreshore)."

The marina will include a sea wall and hold 160 berths, with room for another 20 in a separate northern harbour.

The north side of the

marina's pier will be designated for personal vessels such as yachts and motorboats, while the south side will be for tugs, restaurant boats and commercial vessels.

A hub including a deli, gymnasium and convenience store with a restaurant upstairs will be at

the entrance and open to the public where Mr Ramsey said people can "buy a bottle of milk, a pint of beer and the like".

The site permits a medium density of about 70 per cent (of area occupied by buildings), but this development will only take up 46 per cent, which is a "very low" density.